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Message Text

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42
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SCI-06 INT-08 /157 W
---------- 005715
R 211010Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6486
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, DM, EAID
SUBJ: SHAKE-UP WITHIN MRGD MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO; AF/W FOR WYGANT

1. DAHO-EXPRESS OF 20 AUG REPORTED EXTENSIVE SHAKE-UP WITHIN MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS. SECTIONS OF HYDRAULICS, TOPOGRAPHY AND SURVEYS, AND PUBLIC WORKS WERE AFFECTED, WHILE SERVICE OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS WAS UNTOUCHED. MOST REGIONAL PW DIRECTORS WERE MOVED AROUND, AND MAJOR OFFICIALS IN PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE COTONOU SWITCHED JOBS. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS FACT THAT ACHADE, DIRECTOR ROADS AND BRIDGES, AND AMOUSSOU-GUENOU, DIR NEW PROJECTS WERE RELIVED OF THEIR JOBS AND GIVEN OTHER LESS IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION. THESE TWO MEN WERE PRIMARY CONTACTS FOR AID PROJECTS INVOLVING PARAKOU-MALANVILLE ROAD AND COTONOU BRIDGE/DAM. HOWEVER, PW CHIEF GBAGUIDI STILL HAS HIS JOB FOR MOMENT.

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2. ACTION COMES ON HEELS OF LAST WEEK'S PUBLIC CENSURE OF

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SEVERAL PW OFFICIALS (INCLUDING ABOVE THREE) AS WELL AS
PLAN DIR TAGNON FOR DELAYING CALL FOR BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF POLYTECHNICAL COLLEGE AT UNIV OF DAHOMEY (TO BE FINANCED
BY LOAN GRANTED LAST YEAR BY CANADA -- SEE COTONOU 791 OF
4 JUNE 73). WE WERE INFORMED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS GIVEN
EVIDENCE THAT MEMBERS OF PW MIN HAD ACCEPTED BRIBES FROM CON-
TRACTORS IN ORDER SLANT PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS IN THEIR
FAVOR. SEVERAL CANADIAN SOURCES CLOSE TO PROJECT HAVE TOLD US
MIN ATCHADE MIGHT BE REMOVED AS RESULT OF SCANDAL. HOWEVER,
PENDING TOMORROW'S CABINET MEETING, ATCHADE AND PW DIR GBAGUIDI
STILL HAVE THEIR JOBS. PLAN DIR TAGNON REPORTEDLY ALSO TRIED
TO RESIGN IN PROTEST OVER BEING LINKED WITH AFFAIR, BUT RESIG-
NATION WAS NOT ACCEPTED.

3. SHORT-RUN PROBLEM FOR US MAY BE DISRUPTION OF PROGRESS
TOWARDS SIGNING AID LOAN FOR COTONOU BRIDGE/DAM. MORRISON-
KNUDSEN, AID ROAD PROJECT CONTRACTOR, WILL ALSO BE HAMPERED SOME
WHAT BY CHANGE IN LIAISON PERSONNEL.

4. FOR REDSO: WE UNABLE TO FORCAST AT THIS TIME WHETHER SHIFT
WILL DELAY SIGNING OF LOAN. SINCE GBAGUIDI STILL IN PLACE,
EXPECT THAT LOAN SIGNING CAN PROCEED. TRANSFERS WILL PROBABLY
HOWEVER, DELAY COMPLIANCE WITH CONTRACT TERMS AFTER SIGNING.
GRAHL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COTONO01314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740230-0503
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740831/aaaaazzw.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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